



(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
11.02.2004 Bulletin 2004/07

(51) Int Cl.⁷: **G06F 19/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
16.01.2002 Bulletin 2002/03

(21) Application number: 01306037.1

(22) Date of filing: 13.07.2001

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
 MC NL PT SE TR**
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 15.07.2000 GB 0173187
22.09.2000 GB 0232777

(71) Applicants:

- **Bodsworth, Andrew William**
Northampton NN5 6NR (GB)
- **Ackford, Kelvin**
Kislingbury, Northamptonshire (GB)

- **Berryman, Matthew Oliver**
Pennsylvania, Exeter EX4 5HJ (GB)

(72) Inventors:

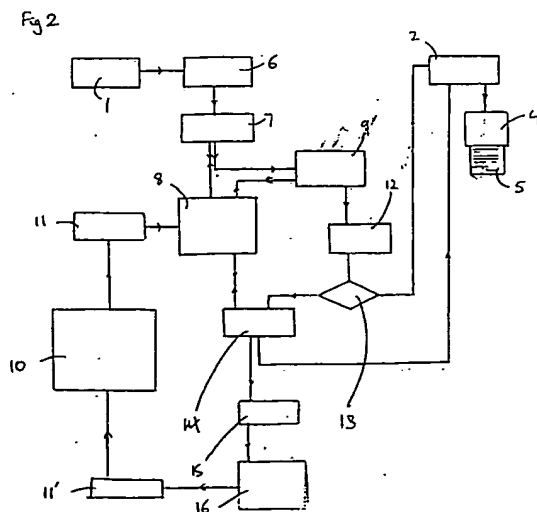
- **Bodsworth, Andrew William**
Northampton NN5 6NR (GB)
- **Ackford, Kelvin**
Kislingbury, Northamptonshire (GB)
- **Berryman, Matthew Oliver**
Pennsylvania, Exeter EX4 5HJ (GB)

**(74) Representative: Gregory, Timothy Mark
T.M. Gregory & Co.,
26 Cyril Street
Northampton NN1 5EL (GB)**

(54) Method for optimising pharmaceutical prescribing

(57) The method permits alerting a medical practitioner to information regarding up-to-date and cost-effective alternatives to a medical prescription. A proposed prescription is compared to a database of prescriptions and possible alternative prescriptions which could be efficacious. If there is a suitable alternative or

alternatives corresponding to the prescription, it is shown to the practitioner. The practitioner may then choose between his proposed prescription and the alternative or alternatives presented to him. The practitioner may then enter either the proposed or an alternative prescription to a system adapted to process and print out prescriptions.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 6037

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
| X | US 5 833 599 A (GAMBERTOGLIO JOHN G ET AL) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) * column 4, line 24 - column 6, line 11 * * column 7, line 57 - column 15, line 54 * * column 19, line 20 - line 28 * * column 23, line 48 - line 63 * * column 25, line 1 - line 5 * * column 29, line 50 - column 30, line 5 * * figures 1,2,4-9,11,15-22 * | 1-3,5,6,8-10 | G06F19/00 |
| Y | --- | 4 | |
| Y | US 5 995 980 A (OLSON JACK E ET AL) 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) * column 3, line 12 - line 64 * * figure 1 * | 4 | |
| X | WO 95 24010 A (MEDICAL DIMENSIONS INC) 8 September 1995 (1995-09-08) * page 5, line 1 - page 6, line 6 * * page 16, line 13 - page 21, line 11 * * figure 21 * | 1,2,5-10 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) |
| A | US 6 081 786 A (UNDERWOOD CAROLYN S ET AL) 27 June 2000 (2000-06-27) * column 2, line 20 - column 3, line 14 * * column 4, line 1 - line 55 * * column 8, line 5 - column 15, line 23; figures 6-9 * | 1,2,5,6,8-10 | G06F |
| A | US 5 758 095 A (INOKUCHI JEFF ET AL) 26 May 1998 (1998-05-26) * column 1, line 55 - column 3, line 13 * * figures 1-3 * | 1,8 | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
| THE HAGUE | | 18 December 2003 | Itoafa, A |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P44C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 30 6037

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-12-2003

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 5833599 | A | 10-11-1998 | US 6317719 B1 | 13-11-2001 |
| US 5995980 | A | 30-11-1999 | NONE | |
| WO 9524010 | A | 08-09-1995 | AU 1976195 A | 18-09-1995 |
| | | | WO 9524010 A1 | 08-09-1995 |
| US 6081786 | A | 27-06-2000 | US 6188988 B1 | 13-02-2001 |
| | | | AU 750822 B2 | 01-08-2002 |
| | | | AU 3461799 A | 25-10-1999 |
| | | | BR 9909906 A | 26-12-2000 |
| | | | CA 2326579 A1 | 14-10-1999 |
| | | | CN 1304512 T | 18-07-2001 |
| | | | EP 1068568 A2 | 17-01-2001 |
| | | | JP 2002510817 T | 09-04-2002 |
| | | | WO 9952025 A2 | 14-10-1999 |
| US 5758095 | A | 26-05-1998 | NONE | |

EPO FORM P0453

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82